



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ICEF/1992/NGO/8
16 June 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
1992 session

FOR INFORMATION

NGO STATEMENT BY THE POPULATION CRISIS COMMITTEE

Recommendations on female genital mutilation,
also referred to as female circumcision

Considering developments since 1984 and the increasing acceptance of public discussion and action by Africans to eradicate female genital mutilation, including the following:

- (a) The establishment of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices and Affiliated National Committees in over 22 African countries;
- (b) Research and educational programmes by these groups and other major African groups, such as the National Associations of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives and the Maendeleo Ya Wanawake organization in Kenya;

Considering also that these groups specifically ask for technical and financial assistance from international agencies;

Considering that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 24, paragraph 3, specifies that "States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children";

1. We make the following recommendations:

(a) Female circumcision should be recognized, at the highest levels of UNICEF in its discussions and publications, as a major health issue for women and children in Africa and all concerned countries;

(b) UNICEF, at the highest level, as well as national level, should openly support efforts by concerned countries to end female circumcision in

ways sensitive to their own cultures, and describe this role in its major publications such as Facts for Life;

(c) UNICEF should include discussions of the health effects of female circumcision in its training of health workers and in all health programmes to improve the status of women and girls in all concerned countries;

2. We are pleased to note that female circumcision is specifically mentioned in the UNICEF report to the Executive Board on women in development and the girl child (E/ICEF/1992/L.5). We urge UNICEF to continue to include female circumcision as a health issue in all its discussions and publications on maternal child health, safe motherhood and the girl child.
